

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 175
URGING THE COUNTIES TO WORK WITH THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEVELOP METHODS OF EXPEDITING THE
INSTALLATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY WARNING SIRENS
THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE EVENT OF
DISASTER

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

APRIL 3, 2008

Chair Evans and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 175.

As currently written, this resolution urges the counties to coordinate with State Civil Defense in expediting the installation of warning sirens throughout the State. And I am pleased to note that our department has recently received appropriate agency cooperation at the county level and State departmental level in expediting permitting processes and contracts for siren installation.

Occasionally, State Civil Defense encounters "push back" from citizens during the required public hearings. This is an area where county officials could provide additional assistance by helping convince the public of the crucial need for sirens.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this resolution.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 11:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

LATE TESTIMONY

HCR 175 URGING THE COUNTIES TO WORK WITH THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEVELOP METHODS OF EXPEDITING THE INSTALLATION OR CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY WARNING SIRENS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER

Representative Evans and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Governor opposes amending House Concurrent Resolution 175 to establish a task force to study the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The goal of the compact is to ensure that military children are provided the same opportunities to learn and advance no matter where they are stationed as a result of their parents' duty in the United States forces. A study on the compact is unnecessary because the U.S. Department of Defense has already studied the matter and believes the compact is the only way to ensure equal treatment across all states. The compact is not a Hawaii matter, but an interstate matter. It is simply a way to create uniformity in an often confusing process.

The Administration submitted a bill requesting the Legislature to adopt the compact because action is needed, not another study. Moreover, adoption of the compact would enable the first member states to be part of the rulemaking process, thus ensuring Hawaii has a say in the process. A study will just delay Hawaii's adoption of the compact and deny much needed help for our military children.

Currently, there are ten states where the compact language has already passed one chamber of the legislature. If these states are successful, an interstate commission will be created this year without Hawaii.

For the above mentioned reasons, as well as the fiscal impact a study would have on the Executive Supplemental Budget, the Office of the Governor opposes amending this resolution to create a task force for studying the compact. Hawaii needs to adopt the compact, not study it.

LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Major General Stephen Tom, Chief of Staff, U.S. Pacific Command
Thursday, April 3, 2008

Comments on House Concurrent Resolution 175 H.D. 1- Relating to the
Department of Education Forming a Task Force to Study the Interstate Compact
on Education Opportunities for Military Children

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) has reviewed HCR-175 and strongly supports the formation of a task force to study the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children. There are tremendous benefits in an interstate compact for all children, but especially military children. The military will continue to work with the state legislature to provide our unique viewpoint on the challenges and impacts of constant moves on school-age children along with advocating possible solutions.

We agree that a Hawaii National Guard representative will provide key insights to the task force. However, since the Interstate Compact deals primarily with transition issues of active duty military families, we recommend the task force also include an active duty member appointed by Commander, USPACOM, in a liaison advisory role. USPACOM strongly encourages the committee to incorporate active duty families as part of the collaborative efforts.

The education of our children is a top quality of life issue for military families. Addressing educational concerns and resolving significant issues such as reducing impacts on children moving schools is key in retaining quality military members. Inclusion of an active duty military member in the interstate task force would further strengthen the cooperative and positive relationship between DOD and the state of Hawaii. Ultimately, Hawaii's participation in the Interstate Education Compact would greatly enhance military students' academic success.

During this time of war when military families provide an important role in the defense of our Nation, I thank the Hawaii Legislature for your leadership and support of our military children and their families.